

# MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

## Week 4: Birth of Jesus (from Luke 2:1-20)

To the Teacher:

*This is the week! We've spent all month pointing our kids (and ourselves) toward the coming King Jesus, and this week we celebrate that he did indeed come. The God of the universe, the Creator of all things, the King of everything, has come into this world. He has come to you and I. He has come to rescue. Pray that our kids see the beautiful rescue of Christmas this week - and that that is what shines through all the excitement of presents and hurriedness of our culture.*

- **Big Idea:** The birth of Jesus brings good news of great joy for all the people!
- **Question:** It's almost Christmas! What are some of the things you have been waiting all season for?
- **Starter:** 'Waiting for One'  
Tell the kids you will start after you've counted down from 10. Have them count down with you, but they can only say the number when you hold it up with your fingers. Start from 10 and go slower with each passing number as you count down. Waiting between 2 and 1 should take the longest. Use this example to lead into the waiting of God's people for salvation and the Messiah to come.
- **Story:** from Luke 2:1-20  
*[You may choose to read 'Light of the Whole World' from The Jesus Storybook Bible]*

*[OR READ]*

*God's people had been waiting centuries for the Rescuer to come and make all things right. They were being being treated badly by Rome, they were poor, and they were wondering when God would show up to save them. The king of Rome was Caesar Augustus. He was in charge of most of the world and he thought that he was lord over everything. He looked very powerful, but he didn't know that someone who seemed not very powerful was about to come to rule a new kingdom; one that would last forever and be much greater than Caesar's (or anyone else's for that matter).*

*At this time Joseph and Mary, who were about to get married, were traveling from their home of Nazareth to Bethlehem, where his great-great-great-great grandfather King David was from. While they were traveling, Mary gave birth to her first child, a son. They didn't have a hospital or even a bedroom, so the baby was born in a stable where animals lived.*

*Nearby in some fields, an angel visited some shepherds to tell them about the baby. They were scared when they saw the angel, but he said, "Don't be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy for all people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to the world. He is the Rescuer you have been waiting for. You'll know which baby it is when you see him wrapped in sheets lying in an animal manger."*

*Just then, an army of God's angels appeared and starting chanting:  
"Glory to God in the highest of heavens,  
and peace down on earth for those God is happy with!"*

*Then the angels left. The shepherds ran as fast as they could and found Joseph, Mary, and the baby lying in the manger. They told everyone they could about what happened and everyone who heard it was amazed. The shepherds praised God for everything that was going to happen through this child, and Mary's heart was filled with joy.*

*[Some Things to Point Out]*

- Ask:
  - Do you think it's important that God chose to show up as a frail baby, born to a poor family without a home, on the run from the rulers of the land?
  - Does this tell us anything about God's love and who he cares for?
- Glory to God
  - 'heavenly host' is an *army* of angels - this is less a song and more a battle cry to declare victory!
  - Caesar Augustus ruled during this time - his name meant 'Exalted one' - much of the world called Caesar 'lord'
  - Israel had also abandoned the Lord and gave glory to themselves or false gods
  - The news of Jesus was that the truly Exalted One had come into the world to establish his kingdom
- Peace on earth
  - Not just calmness or tranquility; the word 'shalom' means wholeness
  - Christ has come to make the broken whole again

- To those with God's favor
  - God's glory is dangerous for humanity because of our sin - In the Old Testament people could not look upon his glory and live
  - Without God's favor, his glory may not look like good news, but destruction
  - Yet, God's glory comes in humility through Jesus - Now through Jesus we can enter peacefully into God's glory
  
- **Prayer:**

*God, you have come down to your world to be with your people. Thank you! We want to be with you. Fill us with your Spirit so we can have peace and bring you glory.*
  
- **Craft:**
  - Here is an ornament craft idea for the heavenly host: <https://www.gluedtomycraftsblog.com/2016/11/angel-christmas-kid-craft-idea.html>
  - And here is one for a manger ornament: <http://www.housingaforest.com/popsicle-stick-manger-craft/>
  
- **BLESS Activity:**

*\*For kids to do during the week\**

  - *Listen / Speak* - Discuss with your parents what Jesus' birth means for the world while you hang your ornaments on the tree
  - *Sabbath* - Jesus has come to bring peace on earth. Christmas can be a very busy time, but encourage your parents to take some time to stop and rest with you, to remember what it means that Jesus has come!